

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 10 have been amended. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and in other applications.

The title is objected to as being not descriptive. Reconsideration is requested. The title has been amended to obviate the objection.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Reconsideration is requested. The recited “reproduce” is readable on (but not limited to) the steps 15 and 35 where information is reproduced from a hybrid disk by activating an application and reading files onto the client PC. Please refer to the specification, paragraphs [0052]+. The invention of claims 1, 2, 5, 7 and 10 should not be limited, however, to the preferred embodiments shown and described in the drawings and the specification.

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is alleged to be directed to non-statutory subject matter. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 recites a method of reproducing information in a client/server system in which the client “reproduce[s] . . . information recorded on the information recording medium . . . based on the usage information.” This is an important feature of the invention. The disk ID management server 1 verifies the hybrid disk 3 by comparing the disk ID of the hybrid disk 3, transmitted from the client PC 2, with the information available in the disk ID management database. The disk ID management server 1 then

notifies the result of the verification process to the client PC 2; the client PC 2 then reproduces information from the hybrid disk 3 onto the client PC 2 by activating an application and then reading the files. Please refer to the specification, paragraphs [0052], [0064]. Thus, the claimed invention produces a concrete and tangible result and satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3, 5-8 and 10 have similar limitations and therefore, are allowable for at least the same reasons as stated for claim 1.

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0082917 ("Takano"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Reconsideration is requested.

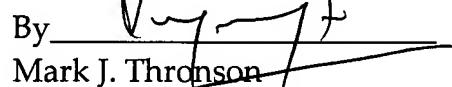
Independent claim 1 has been amended to obviate the rejection. Claim 1 as amended states that the information that is reproduced from the medium (the "other information") is provided on the medium before the information based on the usage information is transmitted to the client. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the information that is reproduced from the disk in Step S15 (Fig. 4B) is recorded on the disk 3 before the process is started. Please refer to the specification, page 16, line 25 – page 17, line 20, and especially page 17, lines 18-20. The claimed invention should not be limited, however, to the preferred embodiments. Takano fails to disclose or suggest the method of amended claim 1, where the reproduced information is recorded on the information recording medium prior to start of the method steps. Consequently, claim 1 as amended should be allowable over Takano.

Claims 2, 5, 7 and 10, as amended, recite limitations similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 1, and should be allowable for at least those reasons. Claim 3 depends from claim 2 and should be allowable along with claim 2 and for other reasons. Claim 6 depends from claim 5 and should be allowable along with claim 5 and for other reasons. Claim 8 depends from claim 7 and should be allowable along with claim 7 and for other reasons.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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